
HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 4203

State of Washington 57th Legislature 2001 Regular Session

By Representatives Schindler, Cox, Carrell, Crouse, Ahern, Boldt and B. Chandler

Read first time 01/22/2001. Referred to Committee on Judiciary.

1 BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
2 STATE OF WASHINGTON, IN LEGISLATIVE SESSION ASSEMBLED:

3 THAT, At the next general election to be held in this state the
4 secretary of state shall submit to the qualified voters of the state
5 for their approval and ratification, or rejection, an amendment to
6 Article IV, section 3 of the Constitution of the state of Washington to
7 read as follows:

8 Article IV, section 3. (~~The judges~~) A justice of the supreme
9 court shall be elected by the qualified electors of (~~the state at~~
10 ~~large~~) a supreme court judicial district at the general state election
11 at the times and places at which state officers are elected, unless
12 some other time be provided by the legislature. (~~The first election~~
13 ~~of judges of the supreme court shall be at the election which shall be~~
14 ~~held upon the adoption of this Constitution and the judges elected~~
15 ~~thereat shall be classified by lot, so that two shall hold their office~~
16 ~~for the term of three years, two for the term of five years, and one~~
17 ~~for the term of seven years. The lot shall be drawn by the judges who~~
18 ~~shall for that purpose assemble at the seat of government, and they~~
19 ~~shall cause the result thereof to be certified to the secretary of~~
20 ~~state, and filed in his office.)) Each justice of the supreme court
21 must be a resident of the supreme court judicial district for which he~~

1 or she is elected or appointed for not less than one year at the time
2 of election or appointment. There shall be three supreme court
3 judicial districts in the state. Three justices shall be elected from
4 supreme court judicial district 1, which shall consist of King,
5 Snohomish, Island, San Juan, Skagit, and Whatcom counties. Three
6 justices shall be elected from supreme court judicial district 2, which
7 shall consist of Pierce, Clallam, Grays Harbor, Jefferson, Kitsap,
8 Mason, Thurston, Clark, Cowlitz, Lewis, Pacific, Skamania, and
9 Wahkiakum counties. Three justices shall be elected from supreme court
10 judicial district 3, which shall consist of Ferry, Lincoln, Okanogan,
11 Pend Oreille, Spokane, Stevens, Adams, Asotin, Benton, Columbia,
12 Franklin, Garfield, Grant, Walla Walla, Whitman, Chelan, Douglas,
13 Kittitas, Klickitat, and Yakima counties. The legislature may change
14 the composition of a supreme court judicial district by statute. Each
15 supreme court judicial position shall be assigned by lot to a judicial
16 district by the secretary of state as provided by statute.

17 The supreme court shall select a chief justice from its own
18 membership to serve for a four-year term at the pleasure of a majority
19 of the court as prescribed by supreme court rule. The chief justice
20 shall preside at all sessions of the supreme court. In case of the
21 absence of the chief justice, the majority of the remaining court shall
22 select one of their members to serve as acting chief justice. After
23 the first election the terms of judges elected shall be six years from
24 and after the second Monday in January next succeeding their election.
25 If a vacancy occurs in the office of ~~((a judge))~~ justice of the supreme
26 court the governor shall ~~((only))~~ appoint a person ~~((to ensure the~~
27 ~~number of judges as specified by the legislature,))~~ from the supreme
28 court judicial district where the vacancy occurred to hold the office
29 until the election and qualification of a ~~((judge))~~ justice to fill the
30 vacancy, which election shall take place at the next succeeding general
31 election, and the ~~((judge))~~ justice so elected shall hold the office
32 for the remainder of the unexpired term. ~~((The term of office of the~~
33 ~~judges of the supreme court, first elected, shall commence as soon as~~
34 ~~the state shall have been admitted into the Union, and continue for the~~
35 ~~term herein provided, and until their successors are elected and~~
36 ~~qualified.))~~

37 The sessions of the supreme court shall be held at the seat of
38 government until otherwise provided by law.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the secretary of state shall cause
2 notice of this constitutional amendment to be published at least four
3 times during the four weeks next preceding the election in every legal
4 newspaper in the state.

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